

BOOK REVIEWS

TOPICS IN RENAL DISEASE.

THERE are five books in this series, each dealing with a single topic or related group of topics. They seem a little expensive for their size at £5.95 each, but they have hard covers and are pleasantly produced on good quality paper. Taken together they cover renal disease in sufficient detail for anyone except the specialist nephrologist. They certainly would be adequate for preparation for the membership examination, and would be very helpful for a registrar coming to work in a renal unit. They are, however, somewhat uneven in quality.

Renal Glomerular Diseases. By Paul Sharpstone and JAP Trafford. (Pp 83, Figs 12, Plates 22. £5.95). Lancaster: MTP Press, 1981.

This is the most successful of the series and gives a concise and very readable summary of the present knowledge of renal glomerular diseases. The poor correlation between clinical syndromes and the pathological appearances is emphasised. There are excellent colour micro-photographs which are clearly labelled. It is useful to draw attention to the fact that the Albustix method of routine urine testing for protein is a very sensitive indicator for albumen and picks up the physiological range of protein excretion (0.05-0.2 g/l) as a trace. It is less useful to state that 2 g/24 hours proteinuria usually indicates glomerular disease but lesser amounts by no means exclude it. It would have been helpful to indicate that the upper limit of the physiological range of proteinuria is 0.2 g/24 hours for males and 0.5 g/24 hours for females.

Acute and Chronic Renal Failure. By Michael Boulton-Jones. (Pp 108, Figs 15. £5.95). Lancaster: MTP Press, 1981.

This gives an excellent short account of acute and chronic renal failure and provides a good introduction to the subjects, sufficient for anyone not working in a renal unit. The account of transplantation is rather unduly depressing, and there seems to be a bias towards home dialysis. There is little reference to the many complications of dialysis. The reproduction of radiographs is rather poor.

Renal Disease: an Illustrated Guide. By D Gwyn Williams. (Pp 89, Figs 89. £5.95). Lancaster: MTP Press, 1981.

This book contains much useful information, but inevitably is rather bitty and contains many half-truths. Some of the rarer complications of transplantation are emphasised, such as *Pneumocystis carinii* infection of the lungs, yet iatrogenic Cushing's syndrome is not mentioned and is very common. It is not true that malignancy accounts for 4 per cent of the death after transplantation. Despite these small criticisms this book contains much excellent information.

Urinary Tract Infections, Calculi and Tubular Disorders. By John Walls. (Pp 90, Figs 160. £5.95). Lancaster: MTP Press, 1981.

This is a useful introduction to these topics, but is not as detailed in the information it contains as some of the others in the series.

Renal Radiology and Imaging. By OP FitzGerald Finch. (Pp 91, Illustrated. £5.95). Lancaster: MTP Press, 1981.

This seems the least successful of the series. The sideways format is not pleasing, and has the effect of breaking up the text unduly. The reproduction of the radiographs is better than in the other books and labelling has been used, which is helpful.

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